

Message Text

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ACTION PM-04

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01

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FM AMEMBASSY OSLO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0936

INFO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

COMMANDANT CG WASHDC

CNO

SECDEF WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L OSLO 0073

LONDON FOR US COAST GUARD

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: ETEL MARR NO

SUBJECT: OMEGA AND LORAN C: RENEWED PRESS DEBATE

REFS: (A) OSLO 1858, 6 MAY 75

(B) OSLO 894, 4 MARCH 75(NOTAL)

(C) OSLO 458, 7 FEB 75 (NOTAL)

SUMMARY: SUBMISSION OF REPORT BY SPECIAL GOVERNMENT
ENQUIRY GROUP ON "HELLEBUST" THESIS HAS SPARKED NEW
SPATE OF PRO/CON ARTICLES IN NORWEGIAN PRESS. REPORT
COMPLETELY EXONERATES GOVERNMENT DECISION-MAKING
PROCESS. SENIOR MOD OFFICIALS ARE NOT CONCERNED
BUT HOPE ISSUE WILL SOON FADE FROM PUBLIC ATTENTION.
END SUMMARY

1. ALTHOUGH OMEGA AND LORAN C HAVE LONG BEEN VULNERABLE
TO EMOTIONAL IF UNFACTUAL LEFTIST ATTACKS, AN
UNHEALTHY FUROR WAS CREATED BY MASTER'S THESIS OF
CAPTAIN HELLEBUST,WHO, AS NORWEGIAN INTELLIGENCE
SERVICE OFFICER IN EARLY 1975, MISUSED HIS POSITION
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TO OBTAIN CLASSIFIED INFORMATION FOR PERSONAL EDUCATIONAL

PURSUIITS(REF C). THE THESIS ITSELF CHARGED THE MINISTRIES OF DEFENSE AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS WITH CIRCUMVENTING PROPER GOVERNMENT PROCEDURES IN AGREEING TO THE INSTALLATION OF THE SYSTEMS IN NORWAY AND THAT THESE SYSTEMS ARE OPERATED IN US(FOR POLARIS TARGETING)RATHER THAN NORWEGIAN INTEREST.

2. A FORMAL ENQUIRY GROUP WAS ESTABLISHED TO INVESTIGATE HELLEBUSTS CHARGES IN MARCH 1975(SEE REF B) THE GROUP HAS NOW CONCLUDED ITS INVESTIGATIONS AND A REPORT WAS SUBMITTED TO THE GOVERNMENT ON 23 DEC. THE REPORT CONCLUDES THAT THERE HAS BEEN NO DECEPTION INVOLVED IN NORWAY'S ACQUISITION OF OMEGA AND LORAN C SYSTEMS NOR ANY ATTEMPTS TO COVER UP THE REAL PURPOSE OF THE SYSTEMS. THE SUBMISSION OF THE REPORT HAS BROUGHT PAST CRITICS OF OMEGA/LORAN C OUT OF THE WOODWORK TO BLAST THE CONCLUSIONS OF THE ENQUIRY GROUP AS A WHITEWASH. EDITORIALS,CHARGES AND COUNTERCHARGES HAVE BEEN APPEARING FREQUENTLY IN THE PRESS WITH A MAJOR DEFENSE OF THE INQUIRY GROUP'S CONCLUSIONS AND THE NORWEGIAN GOVERNMENT POSITION PUBLISHED AS UNATTRIBUTED ARTICLE IN OSLO'S LARGEST DAILY "AFTENPOSTEN". HELLEBUST HIMSELF HAS THREATENED TO "GO PUBLIC" WITH SOME OF HIS MORE SENSITIVE ALLEGATIONS NOW THAT THE GOVERNMENT REPORT HAS BEEN RELEASED.

3. SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE MINISTRY OF DEFENSE CASPER STEPHANSEN ADVISED EMBASSY THAT SENIOR LEVEL OF NORWEGIAN GOVERNMENT IS NOT CONCERNED AT THIS POINT AND OFFICIALS ARE WELL EQUIPPED TO REBUT HELLEBUST'S ACCUSATIONS WITH HARD FACTS. REPORT OF INQUIRY GROUP NOW BEING CIRCULATED FOR COMMENT TO THOSE GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS INVOLVED ALTHOUGH NO FURTHER GOVERNMENT ACTION IS ANTICIPATED. STEPHANSEN EXPECTS AND INDEED HOPES THAT THE ISSUE WILL SOON SUBSIDE AND EBB FROM THE PUBLIC DOMAIN.
BYRNE

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